



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/735,002	12/12/2000	Michael D. Bullock	Y00-044	3382

7590 11/24/2004  
Law Offices of K. W. Float  
Box 80790  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688-0790

EXAMINER

DUONG, THANH P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1764

DATE MAILED: 11/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/735,002

Applicant(s)

BULLOCK ET AL.

Examiner

Tom P Duong

Art Unit

1764

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 August 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9-15 and 17-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

Applicants' remarks and amendments filed on August 30, 2004 have been carefully considered. Claims 1, 9, and 17 have been amended. Claims 8 and 16 have been canceled. New claims 18 and 19 have been added. Claims 1-19 are pending in this application.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cicero (D226,526). Cicero discloses a putter head (Fig. 1) comprising: a single, solid, unitary body having a front surface with a relatively small, centrally-located, flat ball contact surface extending "substantially" the full height of the body that comprises a sweet spot of the putter head that is about 5/8 to 1/2 inches in width and lateral portions that taper rearwardly away from the ball contact surface.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cicero (D226,526). Cicero discloses a putter head (Fig. 1) comprising: a single, solid, unitary body having a front surface with a relatively small, centrally-located, flat ball contact surface extending "substantially" the full height of the body that comprises a sweet spot of the putter head that is about 5/8 to 1/2 inches in width and lateral portions that taper rearwardly away from the ball contact surface. Cicero shows a hole in the upper end (Fig. 1) to receive the shaft member but fails to show a shaft having a grip disposed at an upper end. However, it is conventional and well-known in the golf manufactures to provide a shaft having a grip disposed on the upper end of the of the putter head body and it would have obvious to do so here to provide a hand-engaging means between the user and the putter head.

3. Claims 1-7, 9-15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mattingly (D282,952) in view of Holliday '737 and Swash '962. Regarding claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 9-10, 12-13, 15, and 17, Mattingly '952 discloses a putter head comprising: a single, solid, a trapezoidal unitary body having a front surface with a relatively small, centrally-located, flat ball contact surface that extends the full height of the body and that comprises a sweet spot of the putter

Art Unit: 1764

head and lateral portions that taper rearwardly away from the ball contact surface a base extending toward a rear end of the body. Mattingly shows a cavity on the upper surface to accommodate a shaft but does not show a straight shaft having a grip on Figure 2; however, it is conventional and well-known in the golf manufactures to provide a straight shaft having a grip mounted to the golf club head and it would have been obvious to do so here to provide a hand-engaging means for the putter head. Mattingly does not show a cavity formed behind the ball contact surface and lateral portions and above the base. Mattingly does not disclose a rear portion of the putter head has a cavity. Holliday '737 teaches the large surface cavity 17 removes unnecessary weight from the club head 10 to reduce weight of the putter head (Col. 3, lines 44-50). Swash '962 also teaches rear portion having a cavity to reduce the overall weight of the putter head. Thus, it would have been obvious in view of Holliday and/or Swash to one having ordinary skill in the art to provide a rear cavity as taught by Swash and/or Holliday in order to reduce the overall weight of the putter head. Regarding claims 3 and 11, it is conventional to provide an offset to a shaft member and it would have been obvious to do so here to facilitate alignment of the putter head with ball. Regarding claim 6 and 14, Mattingly shows the lateral portions having flat surfaces; however, it would have been obvious in view of Mattingly to one having ordinary skill in the art the ball will be diverted laterally whether the lateral portions have a curved or flat surfaces (USPN 5,135,228 also show the curved surfaces which provides the same concept of diverting the ball away from the intended target).

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tom P Duong whose telephone number is (571) 272-2794. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM - 4:30PM.

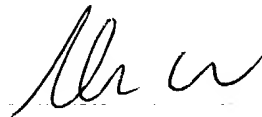
Art Unit: 1764

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola can be reached on (571) 272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tom Duong  
November 16, 2004

TD



Glenn Caldarola  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 1700